AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of the Claims:

Following is a listing of all claims in the present application, which listing supersedes all previously presented claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A semiconductor integrated circuit, comprising:

~~one or more~~ a plurality of hardware function blocks;

a nonvolatile memory unit which stores therein coded license information indicative of a usable/unusable status separately for each of the plurality of hardware function blocks; and

a decoder circuit which decodes the license information stored in said nonvolatile memory unit, and makes ~~one~~ each of the hardware function blocks separately either usable or unusable depending on the decoded license information.

Claim 2. (Original) The semiconductor integrated circuit as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a status unit that has at least part of the decoded license information stored therein in such a manner as to be accessible from an exterior of said semiconductor integrated circuit.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) The semiconductor integrated circuit as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a calendar circuit which indicates a current date and time, wherein said decoder circuit makes said plurality of hardware function blocks usable in response to a finding that the current date and time indicated by the calendar circuit is within a valid period indicated by the decoded license information, and makes said plurality of hardware function blocks unusable in response to a finding that the current date and time indicated by the calendar circuit is after a valid period indicated by the decoded license information.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) The semiconductor integrated circuit as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a counter circuit that counts a number indicative of how many times said plurality of hardware function blocks are used, wherein said decoder circuit makes said plurality of hardware function blocks usable in response to a finding that the number counted by said counter circuit is within a number of valid use indicated by the decoded license information, and makes said plurality of hardware function blocks unusable in response to a finding that the number counted by said counter circuit exceeds the number of valid use indicated by the decoded license information.

Claim 5. (Original) The semiconductor integrated circuit as claimed in claim 4, further comprising a license encoder circuit which encodes the

number counted by said counter circuit, wherein the number encoded by said

license encoder circuit is stored in said nonvolatile memory unit as updated

license information.

Claim 6. (Original) The semiconductor integrated circuit as claimed

in claim 1, wherein coding and decoding of the license information is encrypting

and decrypting that prevent the license information in said nonvolatile memory

unit from being illegally rewritten.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) The semiconductor integrated

circuit as claimed in claim 1, wherein said decoder circuit includes:

a decoder which decodes the license information stored in

said nonvolatile memory unit;

a license register which stores therein the decoded license

information decoded by said decoder; and

a control circuit which makes said plurality of <u>hardware</u>

function blocks either usable or unusable depending on the information stored in

said license register.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) The semiconductor integrated circuit as claimed in claim 7, wherein said control circuit controls a chip enable signal of said plurality of <u>hardware</u> function blocks in order to make said plurality of <u>hardware</u> function blocks either usable or unusable.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) The semiconductor integrated circuit as claimed in claim 7, wherein said control circuit controls a clock signal of said plurality of <u>hardware</u> function blocks in order to make said plurality of <u>hardware</u> function blocks either usable or unusable.

Claim 10. (Original) The semiconductor integrated circuit as claimed in claim 1, wherein said nonvolatile memory unit receives the coded license information from an external LSI tester, and no external pin is provided for a purpose of receiving the coded license information.